THE

Theatrical Observer;

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice."—OTHELLO.

No. 2508 *Saturday, Dec.* 26, 1829. *Price* 1*d.*

"The Play's the thing!"—Ask for *Thomas's Observer.*

The two Royal Theatres re-open this evening with very attractive Bills of Fare, for the particulars of which see our play-bills.

ADELPHI.—Independent of the great attraction of the Elephant, the Proprietors have incured a very serious expence, to produce a splendid Pantomime this evening.

OLYMPIC.—This evening will be revived the Burletta of *Rochester,* in which Watkins Boroughs, and his wife, will appear, after which will be produced a Grand Pantomime entitled *The Polar-star; or, Harlequin King of the Golden Fountains.*

TOTTENHAM STREET.—An entirely new Fairy Tale, the Music by A. Lee, will be produced this evening.

SURREY.—*The Foundling of the Forest,* and a new comic Pantomime, called *A Apple Pie; or, Harlequin's Alphabet,* are the entertainments for this evening.

SADLER'S WELLS.—A new Comic Pantomime, to be called *The Hag of the Forest Raven; or, Harlequin and the Persian Rose,* will be performed to-night, with other entertainments.

PAVILION—The Christmas Pantomime to be brought forward at this house to-night, is entitled *Harlequin and Mother Carey's Chickens; or, the Enchanted Cape.*

PLAY BILLS.

So early as 1587 there is an entry in the books at Stationers' Hall, of a licence granted to one John Charlewood, "for the onlye imprinting of all manner of bills for players."

In the play-bill that announced the opening of Drury Lane, in 1663, the actors' names were then, for the first time affixed to the characters they represented; and "*Vivant Rex et Regina*" was appended to the foot of the bills, as at the present day. A century ago, the bills were sold in the Theatres by young women called "orange-girls," some of whom, Sally Harris, and others, obtained considerable notoriety. Formerly they were admitted in the dress circle of boxes; for, in Hogarth's print of the *Laughing Audience,* one of these girls is introduced. The "girls," however, have been succeeded by starch, married or matronly women, who pay for their privilege, and derive most profit from the sale of the "book of the play," or the "songs" of the evening. Box-women are not admitted to the front of the house, but they carry a few oranges, &c., in a small basket, which always reminds

us of orange-venders at a masquerade. In the saloons, coffee, wine, fruit, and other refreshments, may be purchased; but the galleries are supplied with the redolent luxury of porter, &c., without the company leaving their seats.

The old cry of "Choice fruit and a bill of the play—Drury Lane or Covent Garden," is now seldom heard; but within the walls are heard the cries of grosser luxuries, as "Bottled porter and cider, spruce and ginger beer." The usual bills of the Theatres are termed *house bills*; but for eight years past, *Thomas's "Theatrical Observer,"* with bills of each patent Theatre has been printed, with critiques on the performance of the preceding evening; and a pleasant little work it forms in yearly volumes. This plan was probably from the French.—(*From the Companion to the Theatres.*)

To the Editor of The Theatrical Observer.

DEAR MR. EDITOR, I address you from the Cigar Divan, King-street, Covent Garden, having just popt in to take a cup of Coffee, whiff a true Havannah, kill an hour over one or two of the Morning and Evening Papers—skim the Magazines, and play a game of Chess—delightful place——Just wish to say a word—beg pardon, hope I don't intrude—but will you excuse me—I have to mention, that I've arranged so as to rub shoulders with my friends, and the fashionable world, at one or other of the *Grand Lounges* about town.

On Monday, must take another peep at the two grand Views, at the DIORAMA, Regent's Park—was puzzled to decide which was the most beautiful, St. Peter's, or the Village of Thiers—both exquisitely painted—the pictorial illusion complete—the water flowing, smoke ascending, sun shining—quite nature itself.—Had difficulty to persuade a fair lady next me, that we were really viewing merely pictures. Shall put off my journey to Italy, as I'm told, *sub rosa*, we shall have other views from that classic soil; and if as good as St. Peter's will satisfy me.

On my return through Regent Street I step in to see the Wonders of Nature, displayed by Arts, at the COSMORAMA.—The Palace of the Grand Seignor, The City of Grand Cairo, Grand Temple of Edfou in Egypt, Cherbourg, Cape St. Vincent, Mont St. Gothard, with the Devil's Bridge and the Falls of the Reuss in motion, and the last terrific Eruption of Mount Vesuvius—truly awful!—with others not less interesting; forming together 14 Views, being the largest ever exhibited in London.

On Tuesday, I drop into the Exhibition of SCULPTURE, in Old Bond Street, to view the figures, life size, of Tam O'Shanter and Souter Johnny—work of a self-taught artist, James Thom—delighted beyond measure—fully expected to hear Tam's uproarious laugh—the expression so perfect; *pose* of figures admirable. Whoever has read Burns, (and who has not?) must see them—This very ingenious Exhibition closes in the course of a few weeks.

On Wednesday, previous to visiting 'Change, I step into the Paul's Head Assembly Rooms, Cateaton Street—inspect the magnificent Exhibition of Musical and Mechanical Automa—Two Automaton Trumpeters, as large as life, Musical Lady, Juvenile Artist, Rope Dancer, Magician, Walking Figure, a magnificent Vase, made by order of Napoleon, Birds, Beasts, &c.

On Friday, I drop in to examine *Miss Linwood's* curious Needle-Work, in Leicester Square.

I daily, between 1 and 4, qualify Mrs. Pry's discordant notes with some harmony divine, and may be found at *The Apollonicon*, 101, St. Martin's Lane.—Market and Fishermen's Chorus, from the Opera of Masaniello, enchanting! but I intrude—beg pardon. Your's, PAUL PRY.

Printed and Published by E. Thomas, Denmark Court, Exeter-street, Strand.
All Communications must be post paid.—Printing in General.
☞ The Observer is delivered daily at the Residences of the Subscribers at 2s. per Month.

Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

This Evening, the Historical Drama of

The Royal Fugitive.

Duke William, Mr EGERTON, Sandy, Mr J. RUSSELL, Colonel Cope, Mr BLANCHARD, General Campbell, Mr WOOD, Prince Charles, Mr WARDE, Duke of Athol, Mr DIDDEAR, Duchess of Athol, Miss E. TREE, Flora Macdonald, Miss CAWSE.

To conclude with (first time) a new Grand Comic Pantomime, called

Harlequin and Cock Robin;

Or Vulcan and Venus.

With new Music, Scenery, Machinery, Dresses, and Decorations. The whole produced under the direction of Mr FARLEY.

Vulcan, Mr FULLER, Cyclops, Messrs. Purday, Ransford, Tett, &c. Æsop, Mr MEARS, Clout, the Farmer, Mr HENRY, Hobnail, his Apprentice, (afterwards Whirligig) Mr E. J. PARSLOE, Cuddie, (afterwards Harlequin) Mr ELLAR, Clown.....Mr PAULO, Pantaloon.....Mr F. SUTTON, Sally, (afterwards Columbine) Miss EGAN, Widow Wiggins, Mr MILLER, Dame Dovepigbee, Mr TURNOUR, Fat Farmer, Mr Griffiths, Spirit of Fire, Master Harvey, Mons. Sulphuriate, (the Fire King) Mons. Arsenic, Doctor, Mr Simpson, The Black Family, by the Messrs. White, Venus, Miss RYALS, Cupid, Miss F. MARSHALL.

New Splendid Scenery.

Scene 1 The Palace of Vulcan (Grieve)—2 The Village of Robin's Nest on a Frosty Morning (Grieve)—3 A Landscape, with Æsop's Cottage (Grieve)—4 The Ruins of the Eagle Tower by Moonlight, in which is the Court of the Birds sitting in Judgment (Grieve)—The Star of Venus—5 The Moving Palm-Tree Grove (T. Grieve) 6 Cottage of a Market Gardener (W. Grieve)—7 The Outside of the Green Man Inn (W. Grieve)—8 The Inclosure of St. James's Park, and the Royal Palace (T. Grieve)—9 The Spread Eagle Tavern, and Baker's Shop (Finley)—10 The Bake House (Finley) 11 The Fire King's Exhibition Room (Finley)—12 Covent Garden Market (Pugh)—13 New Covent Garden Market, by Moonlight, (Pugh)—14 The Watch House (Finley)—15 View on the River Thames, with Westminster Abbey, from the Boat-House (T. Grieve) 16 The Picture Gallery (W. Grieve)—17 The Saloon of the New Bazaar, Oxford Street (Finley)—18 ROBERTS'S MOVING DIORAMA OF THE POLAR EXPEDITION, representing the progress of the Hecla and Fury, in their endeavours to discover a North West Passage, beginning with---1 Deptford—2 Discovery Prison Ship—3 Greenwich—4 Long Reach—5 Gravesend—6 A Line-of-Battle Ship off Sheerness—7 The Nore—8 The Ocean, by Moonlight—9 Hecla and Fury off Cape Farewell—10 Hudson's Bay—11 Baffin's Bay, 12 Melville Island, with Loss of the Fury—13 Final arrival of the Hecla in the Bay of Jeddo. 19 The Cave of Jamna (Grieve)—20 The Palace and Bower of Venus (Grieve).

Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening, the Tragedy of

JANE SHORE.

Duke of Glo'ster, Mr J. VINING, Lord Hastings, Mr WALLACK,
Dumont, Mr COOPER, Belmour, Mr YOUNGE,
Jane Shore, Miss PHILLIPS, Alicia, Mrs FAUCIT.

To conclude with (first time) a new Grand Comic Pantomime, called

Jack in the Box;

Or, Harlequin and the Princess

OF THE HIDDEN ISLAND.

The Music by T. Cooke. The whole Invented by Mr W. Barrymore,
Flickerflame, the Goblin, Miss LANE, Glimmer, Mr SHERIFF,
Jack in the Box, Mr RICHARDSON, Blueblaze, Mr S. JONES,
Peep-Ho, Guardian of the Adamant Box, & Pantaloon, Mr BARNES.
High-ho, a Knight on a love-errand, & Harlequin, Mr HOWELL,
Rum-go, his 'Squire and Follower, & Clown, Mr J. S. GRIMALDI,
Luciana, Princess of the Hidden Island, & Columbine, Miss RYAL,
Ho-fum, the Giant Genius, Mr Altesse, Hi-fum, Madame Treslong,
Fum-she, the Giant's only Child, Mr WIELAND,
Mammi Pappi, her Nurse, Mr Bartlett, Kee-loc, Mr Brady,
Stoo-Pan, the Giant's Head Cook, Mr CHIKINI,
Hon. Mr Trifletime, with a Song, Miss POOL, *first Appearance,*
Doctor Syntax, Mr Eaton, Master Griskin, Mr Wieland,
Old Flying Dutchman, Mr Salter, New Flying Dutchman, Mr Lapwing,
Siamese Youths, with an united Pas Deux, Mess. Wieland & Chikini,
Fisherman, with a Parody, Mr Eaton,
Mushapug, the Monkey, the Phænomenon, Myn. VON KLESHNIG,

New Grand Scenery.

Scene 1 The Enchanted Grove and Goblin's Abode (Stanfield) With Fairy Vision of the Hidden Island. 2 Exterior of Ho-Fum's Palace (Andrews) 3 The Giant's Dining Parlour (Marinari) 4 Ascent to the burning Mount, with Beacon Light (Stanfield) 5 The Crater, by Moonlight, (Stanfield) 6 Splendid City of the Mists in the Hidden Island (Stanfield) 7 Lime-kilns, near Gravesend (Andrews) 8 New Post Office at 8 A. M. (Marinari) 9 The West End at 9 A. M. (Marinari) 10 A little Way out of Town (Andrews) 11 Veluti in Speculum (Andrews) with a Pas de Deux by Mr Howell & Miss Ryal, Les Ombres, Mr Chikini & Miss Macdonald. 12 The Half-Way House (Andrews) 13 Cheesemonger's Shop and Wine Vaults (Adams) 14 Mount Edgecombe (Stanfield) 15 Gloucester Coffee House—Snowy Night (Andrews),

Stanfield's Grand Local Diorama,

Displaying—Windsor—Town and Castle of Windsor—The River near Broeas Meadow, Sunset, with Eaton, by Moonlight—Windsor Great Park—The Castle—Plantations near the Royal Lodge—Virginia Waters—The Royal Pavilion—The Upper Lake—The Dry Arch—To conclude with a grand Display of the Falls of the Virginia Waters, in which 39 tons of Water will be introduced.